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**PATENT**

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Docket No.: ETTER

In re Application of:	)
HEINZ ETTER et al.	)
Appl. No.: 09/929,186	) Examiner: Roberts, Paul A
Filed: August 14, 2001	) Group Art Unit: 3731
For: SURGICAL INSTRUMENT	)

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DEC 04 2003

**RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION**  
**dated September 23, 2003**

TECHNOLOGY CENTER R3700

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to "Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450", on **November 24, 2003.**  
(Date)

URSULA B. DAY

Name of Registered Representative

*Ursula B. Day*  
Signature

Nov. 24, 2003  
Date of Signature

SIR:

This communication is in response to the Office Action, dated September 23, 2003, having a shortened period for response terminating October 23, 2003.

The Commissioner is hereby petitioned to extend the period for response to above-referenced Official Action by ONE month until November 24, 2003. Accompanying this amendment is the appropriate fee of \$110.00 pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.17(c) and 37 C.F.R. §1.136(a).

Please amend the above-entitled application as follows: